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C P 091200Z MAY 03 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY KADUL

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAHABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1733

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DHAKA

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DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB - MRS. CARKLEY; THE HAGUE ALSO FOR A-DAM AND R-DAM.

E.O. 12356: DECL: MAY 10, 1988

TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, PINS, PINR, SOCM, PROP, MCPA, JS, AF, SHUM  
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT, MAY 2 - MAY 9, 1983

REF: KABUL 0719 Not relevant

1. (C.-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USED IN BRIEFING THE PRESS, PROTECTING SOURCES WHERE INDICATED.

3. SUMMARY: KABUL WAS RELATIVELY CALM DURING THE WEEK, BUT CONTINUED POWER SHORTAGES WERE A REMINDER OF RESISTANCE ACTIVITY OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL. AS THE SHORTAGE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLE COMING FROM PAKISTAN AND EASTERN AFGHANISTAN CONTINUED, AND PRICES FOR THESE COMMODITIES ROSE, IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED IN KABUL THAT THE BREAK IN THE HIGHWAY TO JALALABAD HAD BEEN A NATURAL NOT A WAR-RELATED CAUSE. SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES POUNDED THE SHOMALI AREA TO THE NORTH OF KABUL FROM THE AIR AND FROM POSTS ALONG THE HIGHWAY WITH UNPRECEDENTED INTENSITY. IT SEEM CLEAR THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THESE ATTACKS WAS TO FORCE THE POPULATION TO REFUGE IN KABUL AND ELSEWHERE AND THUS TO DENY THE REGION TO THE MUJAHIDEEN ONCE AND FOR ALL. THE DESPERATION WITH WHICH LOCAL SOURCES SPOKE OF THE SITUATION IN THE SHOMALI SUGGESTED THAT THESE TACTICS, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, WERE SUCCEEDING. ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, THE RESISTANCE SEEMED TO BE HOLDING ITS OWN IN  
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PAKTIA PROVINCE, WHERE INVADING FORCES HAVE FAILED TO BREAK THE ENCIRCLEMENT OF KHOST, AND IN NEIGHBORING PAKTIKA IN WHICH THE REGIME PRESENCE IS SAID TO BE LIMITED TO A SINGLE FORTRESS IN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. FINALLY, THE TWO-WEEK BOMBARDMENT OF HERAT ENDED AT THE BEGINNING OF MAY WITH MUCH LOSS OF CIVILIAN LIFE AND PROPERTY BUT WITH THE BACK OF THE RESISTANCE APPARENTLY UNBROKEN. END SUMMARY.

4. KABUL: KABUL WAS OUTWARDLY CALM DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY, BUT AS USUAL, THE SIGNS OF WAR WERE NOT FAR TO SEEK. THE MOST OBVIOUS INDICATION OF RESISTANCE ACTIVITY WAS THE CONTINUING POWER SHORTAGE WHICH, DESPITE THE BRIGHT LIGHTS

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LEFT OVER FROM THE REGIME'S CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS COUP D'ETAT APRIL 27, PLAGUED MOST AREAS OF TOWN THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. ACCORDING TO AN ALWAYS RELIABLE SOURCE, AT LEAST TWELVE PYLONS SUPPORTING TRANSMISSION LINES WERE DESTROYED IN THE TWO DAYS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE COUP CELEBRATION AND IN THE FIRST DAYS OF MAY, MOST OF THE CITY WAS RECEIVING ELECTRICITY ONLY FROM A SINGLE TURBINE AT THE THERMAL POWER PLANT IN POL-E-CHARKHI 10 KILOMETERS EAST OF TOWN.

5. BY MAY 8, THE SITUATION SEEMED TO BE IMPROVING FROM THE REGIME'S POINT OF VIEW, BUT AT APPROXIMATELY 6:00 P.M. THAT DAY, THE LIGHTS WENT OFF ONCE MORE ALL OVER TOWN. ACCORDING TO A GOOD SOURCE, SIX MORE PYLONS, SOME OF WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN DOWNED PRIOR TO THE APRIL 27 CELEBRATION, WERE KNOCKED OUT ONCE MORE, AND BY ALL APPEARANCES, THE CITY IS ONCE MORE DEPENDENT ON THE POL-E-CHARKHI INSTALLATION. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER, AS IT DID LAST JANUARY, THE RESISTANCE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC FACILITIES IN THE EAST OF THE COUNTRY CUT OFF FROM THE CAPITAL OR WHETHER THE REGIME WILL BE ABLE TO RESTORE THE SITUATION.

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C P 091200Z MAY 83 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAHABAD IMMEDIATE

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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1734

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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6. ONLY TWO SPECIFIC INCIDENTS OF ATTACKS ON REGIME PERSONNEL CAME TO OUR ATTENTION IN THE FIRST DAYS OF THE MONTH. AT 10:00 P.M. ON MAY 7, A WOMAN KNOWN AS ZOHRA OF KHAD BECAUSE OF HER CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE REGIME'S SECRET POLICE WAS MURDERED IN HER HOME IN THE SOUTHERN QALAI-E-SHOKHACA SECTION OF TOWN BY A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL RESISTANCE ORGANIZATION. ZOHRA HAD BEEN AN INFORMER FOR THE KHAD FOR SOME MONTHS, AND HER DEATH WAS WELCOMED BY THE INHABITANTS OF THE DISTRICT. ALSO, DURING THE NIGHT OF MAY 2-3, A REGIME JEEP PATROLLING THE TAIMANI NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE CITY CAME UNDER RESISTANCE GUNFIRE. TWO OF THE VEHICLE'S INHABITANTS WERE WOUNDED, AND IT WAS ABANDONED IN THE STREET BY ITS PASSENGERS.

7. THE SHARP RESTRICTION OF THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC INTO KABUL FROM PAKISTAN VIA THE EASTERN CITY OF JALALABAD WHICH BEGAN LAST WEEK APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF A MASSIVE LAND SLIDE OR AVALANCHE IN THE AREA OF DOZAKH NOT FAR FROM THE MANIPAL ELECTRIC POWER GENERATING STATION 50 KILOMETERS EAST OF THE CAPITAL. WHILE THERE IS STILL A WEALTH OF RUMOR AS TO EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED, THE CAUSE OF THE AVALANCHE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A COMBINATION OF HEAVY RAIN AND MELTING SNOW RATHER THAN RESISTANCE LAND MINES. GOODS COMING TO THE CAPITAL FROM THE EAST CONTINUE TO BE TRANSPORTED BY HAND ACROSS THE LANDSLIDE FOR RELOADING INTO WAITING TRUCKS. THE PRICE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, WHICH ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY SCARCE, ARE RISING STEADILY.

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8. THE SHOMALI: BY ALL ACCOUNTS, THE BOMBARDMENT WHICH THE SHOMALI REGION TO THE NORTH OF KABUL HAS FACED IN LATE APRIL AND EARLY MAY IS THE MOST GENERAL AND SAVAGE SINCE THE AFGHAN-SOVIET WAR BEGAN THREE AND A HALF YEARS AGO. FROM CHARIKAR, CAPITAL OF PARWAN PROVINCE AND THE SCENE OF FIGHTING DURING THE COUP ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, TO THE KHAIR KHANA PASS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF KABUL, NUMEROUS VILLAGES SUSPECTED OF BEING RESISTANCE STRONGHOLDS HAVE BEEN POUNDED FROM THE AIR AND GROUND WITH UNPRECEDENTED INTENSITY, AND THE POPULATION OF THE ENTIRE AREA IS FLOODING INTO KABUL TO SEEK REFUGE FROM THE ONSLAUGHT. THE BOMBING IS BEING DONE FROM HELICOPTERS AND FIXED WING AIR-

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CRAFT AS WELL AS BY TANKS AND ARTILLERY PIECES BASED IN THE VILLAGES OF MUSSAINKOT, POL-E-SOFIAN AND QALA'-E-MOURAD BEG LOCATED ALONG THE FIFTY KILOMETER STRETCH OF HIGHWAY BETWEEN KABUL AND CHARIKAR. FOR THE MOST PART, KABUL IS SHIELDED FROM THE CONFLICT, BUT ON MAY 7, THE SOUND OF EXPLODING MORTAR BOMBS WAS AUDIBLE THROUGHOUT THE CITY AS THE MUJAHIDEEN FIRED ON REGIME POSITIONS IN THE AREA AND WERE PURSUED BY ARMORED VEHICLES.

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ANAE-00 ACCA-12 SSN-02 SYE-00 SP-02 SNF-01 PRS-01  
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAHABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1735

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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9. THE MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED OBJECTIVES OF REGIME AND SOVIET IRE ARE THE VILLAGES AROUND THE SHAKAR-DARA AND GULDARA VALLEYS, AND THE TOWN OF FARZAH, TEN KILOMETERS FROM CHARIKAR AND THE HEADQUARTERS OF A MAJOR JAMIAT-E-ISLAMI RESISTANCE LEADER. THE BOMBARDMENTS HAVE BEEN PUNCTUATED BY REGIME AND SOVIET SORTIES INTO THE COUNTRY SIDE, AND IT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE LOCAL POPULACE THAT NORMAL LIFE IN THESE AREAS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE. ON APRIL 30, FOR EXAMPLE, A GROUP OF MORE THAN TWENTY ELDERS, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO ATTEMPTED TO COMPLAIN TO THE OCCUPYING REGIME FORCES ABOUT THE SEVERITY OF THE BOMBARDMENT WERE SUMMARILY SHOT. A MAN WHO TRIED TO WORK HIS FIELDS NEAR GULDARA MET THE SAME FATE AT ROUGHLY THE SAME TIME, THIS TIME AT THE HANDS OF THE SOVIET TROOPS. A SOURCE WITH CLOSE TIES IN A VILLAGE NOT FAR FROM GULDARA REPORTS THAT AS PEOPLE ABANDON THEIR HOMES IN THE SHOMALI, THE BUILDINGS ARE SYSTEMATICALLY LOOTED AND THE BOOTY TAKEN TO THE NOW SOLIDLY ESTABLISHED HEADQUARTERS IN SHAKARDARA.

10. AS NEARLY AS WE CAN TELL, RESISTANCE FORCES IN THE REGION ARE REELING FROM THE SEVERITY OF THE ATTACKS AND IN ADDITION TO THE FLIGHT OF THE POPULATION ON WHICH THEY MUST RELY FOR SUPPORT ARE FACED WITH REGIME ULTIMATUMS TO SURRENDER. THE JAMIAT-E-ISLAMI LEADER FROM FARZAH WAS REPORTEDLY GIVEN UNTIL MAY 7 TO GIVE HIMSELF UP OR FACE YET ANOTHER MAJOR REGIME ONSLAUGHT. HE IS SAID TO HAVE REFUSED BUT TO BE AT A LOSS AS TO HOW TO COUNTER THE NEXT OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED AGAINST HIM WITH THE FEW WEAPONS PRESENTLY AT HIS DISPOSAL. THE SHOMALI, A  
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HIGHLY STRATEGIC REGION BECAUSE OF ITS PROXIMITY TO THE HIGHWAY LEADING NORTH TO THE SOVIET BORDER, HAS LONG BEEN AN OBJECT OF SOVIET AND REGIME ATTENTION, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE DETECT A NOTE OF DESPERATION IN THE ACCOUNTS GIVEN US OF THE SITUATION THERE BY TRAVELLERS ARRIVING IN KABUL.

11. SOUTHEASTERN AFGHANISTAN: REPORTS FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES OF PAKTIA AND PAKTIKA SUGGEST THAT THE RESISTANCE IN THESE AREAS IS AT LEAST HOLDING ITS OWN IN THE FACE OF THE SUMMER OFFENSIVE BEING CONDUCTED BY THE REGIME AND SOVIET FORCES. ACCORDING TO A NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS, THE FORCES SENT INTO PAKTIA EARLY IN THE SPRING HAD AS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE THE

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OPENING OF THE ROAD BETWEEN GARDEZ AND KHOST, THE PROVINCES TWO MAIN TOWNS, BUT SO FAR HAVE FAILED TO DO SO. THE FORCE SENT FROM GARDEZ IN THE DIRECTION OF KHOST 80 KILOMETERS TO THE SOUTHEAST HAS BEEN HALTED WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES AT A PASS BETWEEN THE TWO TOWNS. *KHOST, ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES, IS NOT ACCESSIBLE BY ROAD FROM ANY DIRECTION BY MILITARY CONVOYS AND THE FORCES THERE, INCLUDING THE REGIME'S 25TH DIVISION, MUST BE SUPPLIED BY AIR.*

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C P 091200Z MAY 83 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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12. IN PAKTIKA, WHERE THE MODERATE NATIONAL MOVEMENT  
RESISTANCE GROUP OF SAYYED AHMAD GAILANI IS THE DOMINANT ANTI-  
REGIME FORCE, ONLY PROVINCIAL CAPITAL KATAWAZ REMAINS IN  
REGIME HANDS. IN THAT TOWN, THE REGIME ARMY BRIGADE AND ITS  
CIVILIAN CONTINGENT ARE CONFINED TO A LARGE FORTRESS WHICH  
BECAUSE OF ITS EXCELLENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND MASSIVE  
CONSTRUCTION IS IMMUNE TO RESISTANCE ATTACK. ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE COUP ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS APRIL 27 WHEN THE REGIME  
TRIED TO HOLD A CELEBRATION THERE, RESISTANCE FORCES MORTARED THE  
FORTRESS AND FORCED THE GARRISON TO CLOSE ITS GATES. WITH THE  
LOCAL POPULATION UNABLE TO ENTER THE PREMISES, THE CELEBRATIONS  
HAD TO BE CANCELLED. FOLLOWING REGIME AND SOVIET MILITARY  
OPERATIONS BETWEEN KATAWAZ AND THE PAKISTANI FRONTIER 100  
KILOMETERS TO THE EAST, THE RESISTANCE HAS MANAGED TO REOPEN  
ITS SUPPLY ROUTE INTO PAKISTAN, AND THE FLOW OF MEN AND MATERIEL  
INTO THE PROVINCE HAS RESUMED.

13. HERAT: ACCORDING TO SEVERAL REPORTS, THE SAVAGE BOMBING  
OF HERAT BY REGIME AND SOVIET FORCES ENDED AT THE BEGINNING  
OF MAY FOLLOWING A TERRIBLE TWO-WEEK PERIOD IN WHICH AS MANY AS  
FIFTY PLANES A DAY FLEW MISSIONS OVER THE CITY. DAMAGE IN THE  
NORTHWESTERN DISTRICTS, WHERE THE RESISTANCE WAS WELL  
ENTRENCHED, WAS EXTENSIVE, AND SEVERAL THOUSAND CIVILIANS ARE  
RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES. FOR ITS PART, THE  
RESISTANCE IS SAID TO HAVE BROUGHT DOWN TWO HELICOPTERS AND  
TWO FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH THE REGIME MANAGED TO HOLD  
A SMALL CELEBRATION, LIMITED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO COMMUNIST  
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PARTY MEMBERS. ON THE COUP ANNIVERSARY APRIL 27, THE BACK OF  
THE RESISTANCE IN AND AROUND THE CITY HAS APPARENTLY NOT BEEN  
BROKEN.  
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